

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: OAU

1. A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN KINSHASA DAILY SALONGO JULY 17
EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER THE IDEOLOGICAL RIVALRY THAT HAS EACH YEAR
CHARACTERIZED OAU SUMMITS, IN CONTRAST WITH THE BROTHERLY DISCUSSIONS
AND
PEACEFUL, RELIGIOUS-LIKE CEREMONIES THAT TOOK PLACE DURING OAU'S
FIRST FEW SUMMIT CONFERENCES. JOURNALIST TUKULU NDOMATESO NOTES
THAT THE OAU WAS FOUNDED PRECISELY TO DEAL WITH FOREIGN ATTEMPTS
TO DIVIDE AFRICANS. "BUT 15 YEARS LATER", CONTINUES TUKULU, "OAU
IS STILL AN ORGANIZATION OF EMPTY SLOGANS; REAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS
THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA REMAIN UNSOLVED".

2. MR. TUKULU THEN ASKS WHETHER ALL THIS MEANS THAT THE OAU IS
IRRELEVANT. "CERTAINLY NO", SAYS JOURNALIST, ON THE CONTRARY
"TIME HAS COME FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS TO FORGET ALL ABOUT
THEIR IDEOLOGICAL COLORS, TO UNITE ALL THEIR RESOURCES IN ORDER
TO MEET COMMON OBJECTIVES AND TO BRING ABOUT PROGRESS TO AFRICA.
HE CALLS ON THOSE WHO THINK THAT BEING "PROGRESSIVE MERELY
MEANS USING SLOGANS AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM",
TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM SUCH ALIENATION.

3. "DESPITE ITS IMPERFECTIONS, THE OAU REMAINS A VERY PRECIOUS,
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VANGUARD INSTRUMENT AFRICANS CAN USE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT", CONCLUDES COMMENTARY. ITEM.
COHEN

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